(*b*) The services of copyists are required in Taluk Offices for making copies of records applied for by private parties.

(*c*) and (*d*) The question was considered by the Government before and they have decided that it is not necessary to make the services of these copyists permanent and pensionable.

Maistries of the P. W. Department.

273. **MR. D. FRANCIS** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware of a resolution passed in a meeting of the Fourth Conference of the All Travancore Work Establishment Association of the Public Works Department held on the 30th May 1926 presided over by Mr. M. K. Govinda Pillai and forwarded to the Government and the Chief Engineer;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, whether they have taken any steps for treating these maistries in the matter of permanency and grant of pension like their brother workers in the other departments; and

(*c*) whether they will consider the claims of these maistries and allow them at least gratuity, privilege leave, etc., in case pension cannot be given them?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) The maistries cannot be given privilege leave; but men with long service are in deserving cases given gratuity.

Improvement of Paddy cultivation in Vaikam Taluk.

274. **MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN** (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received representations from the inhabitants of Parur, Udayamperur and Kandanad in the Vaikam taluk urging the necessity for putting up a bund to prevent the rush of brine into the extensive paddy fields adjacent to these places; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the steps taken by them to redress the grievances of these ryots?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) As a portion of the work is in Cochin territory and Cochin lands also would be benefited by the proposed bund, the views of the Cochin Government have to be ascertained. The matter is under correspondence.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): With reference to the answer to part (*b*) of the question, may I know how long the matter has been under correspondence?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Since 1923.

MR. MATTHEW MURIKKAN (*Vaikam*): Do not the Government think that there is necessity for hastening up the matter?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, the correspondence is being hastened.

Delay in filling Vacancies in the P. W. Department.

275. MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that several vacancies in the Upper Subordinate Grade of the Public Works Department are left unfilled for more than five years; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for the delay in filling up these vacancies?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There are some acting vacancies to be filled up.

(*b*) There are no special reasons.

MR. D. C. JOSEPH (*Agastisvaram*): With reference to the answer to part (*a*) of the question, may I know whether the vacancies will ever be filled up?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): They will be filled up soon.

Remission of Tax.

276. MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state the area of the paddy fields commanded by the Kodayar Project for which remission of tax was allowed in respect of the last Kanni crop on account of total failure of crops caused by want of water in the Kodayar reservoir?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Statements for remission of tax on the affected areas are being received and disposed of. It is not therefore possible now to state the area for which remission has been allowed.

Need for a Munsiff's Court at Bhutapandi.

277. MR. V. CHELLAM PILLAI (*Tovala*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have received petitions from the inhabitants of the Tovala taluk praying for a Munsiff's Court at Bhutapandi; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by them in the matter?

MR. P. N. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Administration of Justice.

278. MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the amount realised by them from the Department of Administration of Justice, inclusive of the value realised by the sale of Court-fee stamps and copying papers used in civil and criminal courts, during the years 1100, 1101, 1102 and 1103; and

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